



**Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Water Protection Program
P. O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176**

WATER QUALITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center
4200 New Haven Road
Columbia, Missouri

October 18, 2005
10:00 a.m.

MEETING AGENDA

Water Quality Festivals in Missouri; What We've Accomplished,
Bob Broz, UMC Outreach and Extension

Using Poultry Manure: Protecting Water Quality, Guy Frazier,
Environmental Assistance Office, DNR

303(d) List (tentative), Phil Schroeder, WPP

Other

Agency Activities

Meetings & Conferences

Note: The Nutrient Criteria Stakeholder group will meet in the afternoon beginning at 1:00 p.m.

MISSOURI WATER QUALITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

October 18, 2005

USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center
4200 New Haven Road
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MINUTES

Attendees:

Becky Shannon	DNR/WPSCD/WPP-WPCB	Bob Ball	USDA/NRCS
Ken Midkiff	Sierra Club	Steve Fischer	US Army Corps of Engineers
Anne Peery	DNR/WPSCD/WPP-WPCB	Miya Barr	USGS-MWSC
Bonnie Liscek	EPA Region VII	Phil Schroeder	DNR/WPSCD/WPP-WPCB
Buffy Santel	MSD	Gary Pendergrass	City Utilities of Springfield
Colene Colby	DNR/Northeast Reg. Office	John Waitman	City of Springfield Public Works
Colleen Meredith	DNR/WPSCD/WPP-WPCB	Brian Griffith	MFA Incorporated
Bob Broz	UMC Extension-Water Quality	John Bryan	MO Poultry Federation
Paul Andre	MO Dept. of Agriculture	Robert Brundage	Newman, Comley, Ruth, PC
Tod Hudson	DNR/WPSCD/WPP-WPCB	Angel Kruzan	Water Sentinel
Guy Frazier	DNR/DFS/EAO	Claire Baffaut	UMC-FAPRI
Ann Crawford	DNR/WPSCD/WPP-WPCB	Bob Bacon	Env. Resources Coalition
Betty Wyse	Env. Resources Coalition	Darlene Schaben	DNR/WPSCD/WPP-WPCB

Becky wished everyone a happy World Water Monitoring Day. There is a celebration in St. Charles. This is the 4th year for this celebration.

Introductions were made.

Water Quality Festivals in Missouri; What We've Accomplished, Bob Broz, UMC Extension PowerPoint Presentation

Bob said they received a 319 minigrant to do water festivals and incorporate water quality and nonpoint source pollution education targeting third and fourth grade students. A water festival is any form of hands-on learning activities brought together to provide a fun and educational learning experience on water quality topics. They should cover a wide range of topics. Bob showed a poster that had won a poster contest held at a water festival. If you are planning a water festival, Bob recommended purchasing two books, Making Waves and Making More Waves. He discussed how to make a water festival run smoothly, what to do and what not to do. Since the grant ended, attendee numbers have increased. In 2004, more than 6,000 students have participated in 30 water festivals that were designed for scheduled rotations; approximately 8,000 students participated in those designed for open-air non-scheduled activities. Those students that attended the scheduled rotations were evaluated. Bob showed a state map that depicted the many counties where water festivals have been held. Several groups have taken the lead to ensure their area has an Environmental Day. A couple of schools in north Missouri had requested assistance to work with students to help increase MAP (Missouri Achievement Program) skills. They saw an increase in knowledge level of the students after attending a water festival. Bob thought the increase was also accredited to teachers who were teaching more water quality and natural resource information up front.

Bob said the program may need to be changed to make the water festival work for the audience. Funding for water festivals is also a consideration. Some funding sources may include DNR 319 minigrant, MDC grant for outdoor education, local support, etc. Local support is generally an excellent source. Presenters can be anyone who works with water quality. He said you also need to know what your presenters will be talking about and the amount of time needed. He mentioned several possible activities and games for a water festival. He suggested getting the students involved by asking questions. Water festivals are good for public awareness and getting students involved.

Becky mentioned that the 319 minigrants should not be used for long-term funding but organizers should look for local support.

Using Poultry Manure: Protecting Water Quality, Guy Frazier, Environmental Assistance Office, DNR PowerPoint Presentation

Guy said these projects are funded with Section 319 funds. He also shares information at workshops about erosion control across Missouri. There are three projects he works with: Poultry Litter Exchange, Poultry Compost Project, and the Poultry Litter Burning Demonstration. The Poultry Litter Exchange project provides a free place for people to advertise poultry litter to buy, sell, haul, or spread. The Web address is: www.mo-poultry.org. The site has available databases to find sellers, buyers, haulers, and spreaders. There is also a page on the site with links to other resources. Guy said if anyone knows of other links that would be useful to producers, they need to contact him so they can be added to the site.

The Compost Demonstration Project demonstrates open-air composting. This is more environmentally sound than spreading raw litter and increases the economic value of the litter. Some of their partners are University of Missouri Southwest Research Center at Mt. Vernon, the Neosho FFA Chapter, and the DNR Poultry Committee. Guy thought the Poultry Committee was open to anyone. They used equipment that a producer would normally have to demonstrate this project. A litter analysis is done on each batch of raw litter brought in. It is tested for nutrients and some metals. The compost is tested for nutrients, fecal coliform, and salmonella. Tests so far have shown no fecal coliform or salmonella.

The Litter Burning Demonstration was to demonstrate that litter can be used for heating. They compared the cost of heating with poultry litter as opposed to propane. Some of the partners include DNR, NRCS, the Southwest Missouri RC&D, growers, Advanced Biomass Carbons LLC, and Department of Energy. The Southwest Missouri RC&D received a 319 grant to purchase the litter burners. Funding from Department of Energy was used to do the monitoring. They mounted their monitoring equipment in two barns—one with a litter burner and one without. Guy explained how the litter burner worked. Using a litter burner not only provides heat to the birds but provides clean air. One hour of use at maximum output would equal 5 gallons of propane. He also talked about some problems they experienced and some of the fixes to those. He talked about some of the challenges they faced. People upstream in a watershed don't understand the impacts their activities have downstream. The conveniences may be more important than cost savings or environmental benefits. Producers need to believe there is a problem before they will respond. There is also the challenge of proving that poultry litter really is a problem and can the phosphorus issues be tied to poultry litter.

Minnesota has passed a law that restricts the use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus. Only if a soil test indicates a need can phosphorus be applied. This is similar to poultry litter here. It is a nutrient management issue. We need to learn that poultry litter has a value; it's not a waste.

Colleen talked about a 319 project with the Elk River/Shoal Creek Watershed Restoration project in McDonald County Soil & Water Conservation District. They have an incentive to pay a hauler to transport litter to crop producing areas. The temporary project demonstrates litter transport to see if it is viable. The project expires June 2006.

Betty commented that litters haulers can get low-interest equipment loans to set up their business through DNR's Revolving Loan Fund.

Guy said that on an average it takes 4-6 months for composting poultry litter in the open-air composter. Producers also need commercial fertilizer on their fields, not just poultry litter.

303(d) List, Phil Schroeder, WPP

Phil said they have started stakeholder discussions. There were seven attendees at the first meeting. Phil was concerned about the level of interest and indicated a need to make more people aware of what's going on since the process is changing. Now they have the guidance approved by the Clean Water Commission (CWC) and the listing methodology, which is referenced by a rule. The list is behind schedule due to establishing the methodology document into rule. The next deadline is April 1, 2006. They had planned to combine the 2004 and 2006 list and submit to EPA by the deadline. EPA has just recently published the Integrated Reporting Guidance, which is creating a challenge. Phil said they may have to change the methodology that was approved by the CWC before being able to submit the 2006 list to EPA. So, they may just focus on getting a 2004 listing submitted. Some changes in the methodology that sets the basis for what waters they are proposing to be on the list include minimal sample size and data age. This may eliminate use of general criteria observations that have been made in the past. Other cases may not have criteria established, like nutrients. The overall focus in trying to get the next 303(d) list done is to make sure the waters on the list are right and ready for a TMDL. If data is more than seven years old then justification should be provided as to why that data is still suitable to show current conditions of that water body. Some waters are being removed from the list because of permitted sources identified as being sole source of water quality impairment. Those are being addressed through the permitting program in lieu of drafting a TMDL. New data is also available on some waters that show they are meeting water quality standards. Other waters that have TMDLs and have been approved by EPA are being removed.

For the next list 48 waters will be listed--31 waters from the 2002 303(d) will be retained and 17 new waters added. Phil wants everyone to understand the basis of the decision before going too far into the process. Information is posted on the Web site. A list of all waters from the 2002 list is shown and whether that water will be retained or recommended for removal and why. Additional information on stakeholder discussions will be posted as it becomes available. The comments received are being analyzed to help determine the next step, which is deciding whether another stakeholder meeting should be held or should the document be finalized to present to the CWC.

Phil said the list would be sent to EPA after promulgation as a rule. EPA will be working with DNR throughout the process.

Agency Activities

Phil Schroeder mentioned that the CWC had directed staff to review the rule on Combined Sewer Overflows. The workgroup has met several times. A last draft has been distributed to the group for any comments. They plan to submit the draft rule to the CWC in November.

Steve Fischer said NALMS is hosting a symposium in Madison, Wisconsin, on November 7 – 11, 2005. Steve is responsible for seven lakes in Missouri for water quality sampling. Anyone interested in any of the data can contact him. He is scheduled to do a presentation at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference in February.

Bob Ball announced that they have identified two watersheds for the Conservation Security Program sign up. They are James River and Spring River (southwest). The Missouri Show-Me Chapter Soil & Water Society Fall Forum will be held Thursday, October 20, at the Carver Farm in Jefferson City. The topic will be on nutrient management planning. Information is available on the Missouri Show-Me Chapter Web site.

There are currently eight watersheds in Missouri under contract on the CSP.

Ann Crawford said they have 39 TMDLs to complete this year. They are working toward that goal by contracting with EPA to provide some wasteload allocations.

Guy Frazier announced that the department's Environmental Assistance Office will soon no longer exist due to the reorganization.

Bob Broz announced a four-state water quality conference to be held in Overland Park, Kansas, October 26-28, with the EPA Region 7 states. Presently, registration is closed. Topics include nutrient pesticide management, livestock manure management, and watershed management.

Anne Peery said the status of the TMDLs and TMDLs in progress are on the TMDL Web site.